



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS


Please **REWRITE** claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 21–31, 35, and 41–42. For the Examiner's convenience, this Amendment includes the text of all claims under examination, a parenthetical expression for each claim to indicate the status of the claim, and markings to show changes relative to the immediate prior version of each currently amended claim.


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1. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
receiving a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
storing the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection; and
after termination of the connection, calculating the cost of receiving the multicast data, wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session
receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the
multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected
multicast service.
 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a subsequent request to extend the connection, the subsequent request specifying a
new end time for the connection; and
storing the new end time for the connection.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request
specifying a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and
storing the new end time for the connection.
 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing of the start time for the connection
and the end time for the connection is to a database.
 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the calculating of the cost further
comprises:
computing a charge for receiving the multicast data;
storing the charge; and
computing the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated
with the selected multicast session.
 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the computing of the charge further comprises:
computing an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from
the end time for the connection.
 7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the computing of the charge further comprises:
computing a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the
connection to the end time for the connection.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the storing of the charge is to a database.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
11. (Currently Amended) A system for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
a memory device; and
a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:
receive a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;
store the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection; and
after termination of the connection, calculate the cost of receiving the multicast data, wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast

session receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol
sends the multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated
with the selected multicast service.

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12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to extend the connection, the subsequent request specifying a
new end time for the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection.
13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:
receive a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request specifying
a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and
store the new end time for the connection.
14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processor stores the start time for the
connection and the end time for the connection to a database.
15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein to calculate the cost, the processor is
further configured to:
compute a charge for receiving the multicast data;
store the charge; and
compute the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated with
the selected multicast session.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein to compute the charge, the processor is further configured to:
compute an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein to compute the charge, the processor is further configured to:
compute a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor stores the charge to a database.
19. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one

multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, the
computer program logic comprising:
~~a computer readable medium;~~
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for receiving a request to establish a
connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the
connection and an end time for the connection;
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for storing the start time for the connection
and the end time for the connection; and
after termination of the connection, program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for
calculating the cost of receiving the multicast data,
wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and
wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session
receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the
multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected
multicast service.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, the
computer program logic further comprising:
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for receiving a subsequent request to
extend the connection, the subsequent request specifying a new end time for the
connection; and
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for storing the new end time for the
connection.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, the computer program logic further comprising:

program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for receiving a subsequent request to terminate the connection, the subsequent request specifying a new end time that precedes the end time for the connection; and
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for storing the new end time for the connection.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, wherein the storing of the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection is to a database.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, wherein the program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for calculating the cost further comprises:

program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing a charge for receiving the multicast data;
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for storing the charge; and
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated with the selected multicast session.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 25, wherein the program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing the charge further comprises:
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 25, wherein the program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing the charge further comprises:
program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for computing a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 25, wherein the storing of the charge is to a database.
29. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 21, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~readable medium~~ of claim 29, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for calculating a cost of receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, comprising:
a collection device comprising:

a collection memory device; and

a collection processor disposed in communication with the collection memory

device, the collection processor configured to:

receive a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session,

the request including a start time for the connection and an end time
for the connection;

store the start time for the connection and the end time for the connection;

and

after termination of the connection, calculate the cost of receiving the

multicast data,

wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and

wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected

multicast session receives a multicast message from a sender, the

multicast protocol sends the multicast message to said at least one

multicast session associated with the selected multicast service; and

an interface device comprising:


an interface memory device; and

an interface processor disposed in communication with the interface memory device,

the interface processor configured to:

configure the collection device; and

display the cost of receiving the multicast data.

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32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor is further configured to:

receive a subsequent request to extend the connection that specifies a new end time for the

connection; and

store the new end time for the connection
33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor is further configured to:

receive a subsequent request to terminate the connection that specifies a new end time for

the connection; and

store the new end time for the connection.
34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the collection processor stores the start time for

the connection and the end time for the connection to a database.
35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein to calculate the cost, the collection


processor is further configured to:


compute a charge for receiving the multicast data;

store the charge; and

compute the cost by multiplying the charge by a fee for the multicast service associated with

the selected multicast session.

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36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein to compute the charge, the collection processor is further configured to:
compute an elapsed connection time by subtracting the start time for the connection from the end time for the connection.
37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein to compute the charge, the collection processor is further configured to:
compute a volume of data received over the connection from the start time for the connection to the end time for the connection.
38. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the collection processor stores the charge to a database.
39. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein time is divided into evenly spaced time slots, and wherein the start time for the connection the end time for the connection can only occur at the end of a time slot.
40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the end time for the connection in the request is specified as a discrete number of time slots.
41. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon ~~An apparatus~~ for calculating a cost of



receiving multicast data from a selected multicast session, a multicast network including at least one multicast service, each multicast service including at least one multicast session, the computer program logic comprising:

~~a computer readable readable medium;~~

program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for sending a request to establish a connection to the selected multicast session, the request including a start time for the connection and an end time for the connection;

program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for sending a first subsequent request after the request, the first subsequent request including a new end time for the connection, the new end time being later than the end time; and

program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for sending a second subsequent request after the first subsequent request, the second subsequent request including an earlier end time for the connection, the earlier end time after the end time and before the new end time,

wherein the multicast network utilizes a multicast protocol, and

wherein when a selected multicast service that includes the selected multicast session

receives a multicast message from a sender, the multicast protocol sends the

multicast message to said at least one multicast session associated with the selected

multicast service.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer program product ~~apparatus~~ of claim 41, the computer program logic further comprising:
- program code ~~in said computer readable medium~~ for determining a request time interval;

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wherein sending the request, sending the first subsequent request, and sending the second
subsequent request only occur at a time that is a multiple of the request time interval
from the start time.
